

# START the PARTY

Preteen

## What is your favorite type of party?

### Matthew's Party Matthew 7:24-29

In Luke 5:29, Luke wrote that Matthew hosted a huge party for Jesus in his house. But why? In the second half of verse 27, Jesus said two words that changed Matthew's life and explain why Matthew wanted to celebrate: "Follow me."

Fill out this party invitation based on the party that Matthew hosted.

WHO (was invited?): \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT (did they do?): \_\_\_\_\_

WHEN (before or after getting right with God?): \_\_\_\_\_

WHERE: \_\_\_\_\_

WHY: \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew and his friends must have been shocked to receive an invitation from Jesus to follow Him. He and the other tax collectors and party guests probably didn't expect to be loved and accepted after everything they had done wrong. But when they realized Jesus came to forgive them, they recognized that Jesus is a good reason to have a party, so they celebrated!

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## How does it feel to be invited?

### Jesus' Parable of the Wedding Feast Matthew 22:1-14

If you've ever been invited to a big party, you know it's always nice to thank the host for inviting you. Why? Because it feels good to be invited to the party, doesn't it?

Everyone is invited to put their faith in Jesus and follow Him. And yes, that means you! So take a few minutes today to thank God for inviting you to the party.

"Dear God, thank You for inviting me to follow you. I can't think of a party I'd rather be invited to than Yours!

Sometimes when I mess up, I forget that my relationship with You lasts forever. Please help me remember that I am invited to the party—that EVERYONE is invited. Help me to keep following Jesus and living the life You made me to live. And thank You for inviting me to the party! In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen."

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## What's the best news you've ever heard?

### Jesus' Parable of the Lost Son Luke 15:11-32

**What's the best news you've ever heard?** The best news of all time is that Jesus came to be your Savior. On the cross, He made a way for us to be forgiven for our sins. All of us have messed up. But because of what Jesus did for us, God will always welcome us home, like the father in the story.

News like that deserves to be celebrated! Talk to a parent about meeting a friend or two to celebrate the good news. You could go out for cupcakes, some ice cream, or even grab some popsicles. Start out by sharing with each

other some good news you've heard (besides the good news that Jesus came to be our Savior). What made it good news? Was it good news for everyone or just you?

Then talk about the BEST NEWS ever with each other—the news that Jesus came to be our Savior. What's the best part of the good news? What does this news mean for you? For others? For the world? Celebrate the good news!

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## How can Jesus change your life?

### The Woman at the Well John 4:1-26, 39-42

Can you imagine what it must have been like for the woman at the well to meet the Savior of the world? And then, in a simple conversation, Jesus changed her life—revealing that He was the expected Savior! Suddenly this woman knew she wasn't just talking to any partygoer, but to the life of the party—Jesus!

You get to hang out with the life of the party every day. That means whenever you're facing something hard, Jesus is there to help you. And whenever things are going great in your life, you know Jesus is there

celebrating with you!

Grab a sheet of paper and some colorful markers, as well as any glitter, glue, cutouts, etc. you want. Make a party poster that says, "START THE PARTY!" and make it as colorful and fun as you can. Hang the poster on your bathroom mirror, on your bedroom door, or in the kitchen on the fridge, to remind you to celebrate the good news that Jesus came to be our Savior!

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